



Historic Gloucester

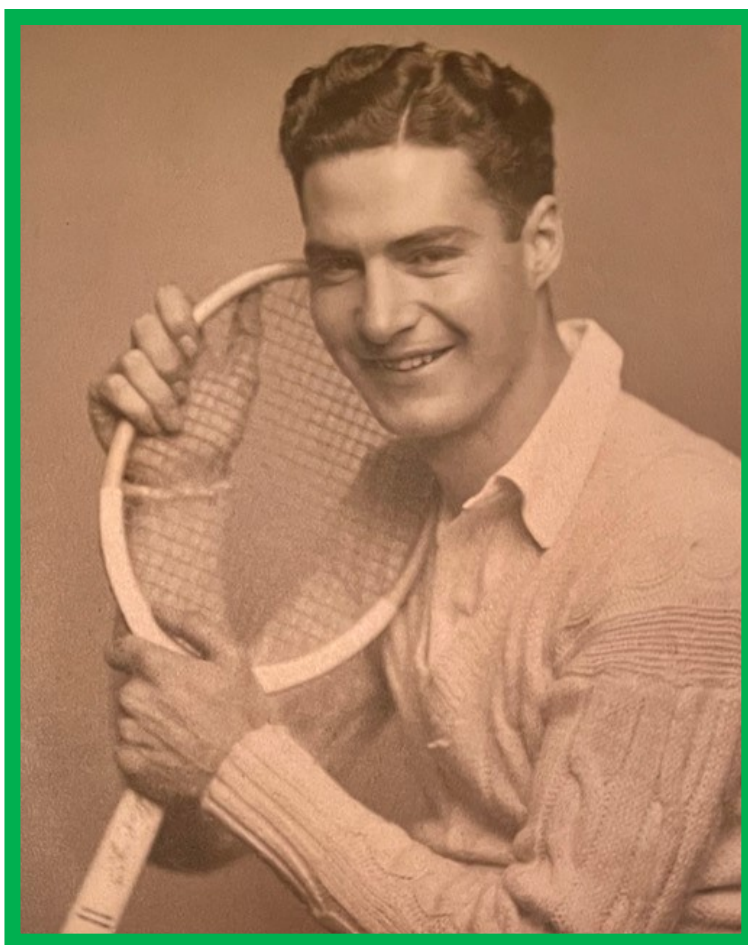
Newsletter of the

**GLOUCESTER
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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Don McDiarmid, 1940 Canadian Open Champion
See story on page 4

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President's Report

By Glenn Clark

We have been through a full year of the Covid 19 pandemic, and they now say that we are starting the third wave. The good news is that the vaccine distribution is accelerating. By the time you read this, you may have already been vaccinated and there is hope that we will all be vaccinated by summer. Perhaps, by fall, life will return close to normal.

In my case, the pandemic restrictions have provided an unexpected opportunity. In December, I was contacted by James David Scanlon concerning his stepfather, Don McDiarmid, a 1940's Ottawa tennis star. To be honest, I had not heard of him, but after some investigation, I am sure he would have been a household name in my parent's generation. The question was raised concerning the naming of Donald Street. Was it named for Don McDiarmid? This presented a challenge, as I would soon learn that the reasons for street names are not well documented. There is no comprehensive resource on street names for the City of Ottawa, let alone for the former Township of Gloucester.

I was fortunate to know someone who grew up in Overbrook who was able to provide a definitive answer, that Donald Street was named for Donald MacLeod, a resident of Overbrook and an airman lost during the war. But it revealed that this kind of knowledge held by individual residents was going to be lost, and probably already lost in many cases. I knew that it was critical that our street name heritage needed to be documented as well as possible. Thanks to the post-Christmas lockdown, I was able to invest a lot of time researching this topic. I also received help from several other people and the general public. A resource is now published on our website covering all of the original Gloucester territory including Vanier and Rockcliffe. We welcome contributions and corrections from anybody.

The fruits appear in this newsletter with an article on Don McDiarmid and the story of Ethel Street in Vanier. I wish to thank James David Scanlon for telling his stepfather's story. Enjoy!

This will be followed-up with a Zoom presentation on some interesting stories about various street names discovered during my research. This will take place on Sunday, April 18th at 2:00 pm. Details appear elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope you can join us.

After a relatively mild and short winter, and once a significant portion of the population is vaccinated, we can soon look forward to eased restrictions and a return to activities that we have so dearly missed in the last year. Happy spring!

THE GLOUCESTER HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORY ROOM WILL BE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
BY APPOINTMENT ONLY DURING THE SPRING MONTHS
LOCATION: 4550B BANK STREET (AT LEITRIM ROAD)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT Mary Boyd at 613-521-2082 or boydmary172@gmail.com

Historic Gloucester is published by The Gloucester Historical Society. It is intended as a Newsletter to members of the Society to provide interesting articles on Gloucester's past and to keep them informed of publications available, upcoming events and other items of general interest. Comments and suggestions regarding the Newsletter are always welcome.



Gloucester Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the City of Ottawa.



**The Gloucester Historical Society
Presents
“The Stories Behind Street Names”
From Glenn Clark’s recent research**



Sunday, April 18, 2021 2:00 p.m.

On-Line Zoom Presentation

Pre-Registration Required

Open to the Public.

Registration by e-mail english@gloucesterhistory.com

by April 17th, 2021

A brief Annual General Meeting will precede the presentation



The Gloucester Historical Society acknowledges financial assistance of the City of Ottawa

Remembering A Local National Tennis Champion

Don McDiarmid, 1940 Canadian open champion, first Ottawa-born Davis Cup player by J. David Scanlon

(James David Scanlon was Don McDiarmid's stepson. He is a retired naval captain and former military public affairs officer. Raised in Ottawa, he served in the Canadian Forces for 30 years. He is now a public affairs advisor, researcher, and writer.)

Eighty years ago, this coming June, Ottawa's Don McDiarmid, then reigning Canadian national tennis champion, was ranked the number one men's tennis player in Canada by the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association.¹ This marked the peak in the sports career of a rising Canadian star whose life, like many, was irreparably interrupted by the Second World War, although McDiarmid became a wartime sports ambassador for Canada and the Royal Canadian Air Force.

Donald Stuart McDiarmid was born on 21 November 1915, the third youngest of nine siblings. His parents, who lived in Ottawa's Britannia area, were Collas Arthur McDiarmid, a carpenter and contractor,² and Jean Mackenzie (née Woods) McDiarmid, who was prominent in the Britannia United Church and its Women's Association.³ Along with learning some carpentry skills from his father, by the age of 14 young McDiarmid had developed a keen interest in tennis. He would borrow racquets and balls from his older siblings, many of whom were strong local players, and would sneak through a hole in the fence at the Ottawa West Tennis Club (now Tennis Centre West Ottawa). He would bat balls around until the club opened for the day.⁴

In October 1935, playing for Nepean High School, McDiarmid won singles matches in straight sets against Commerce High School and Ottawa University, and was reported as "possibly the outstanding player of the boys' division." From 1938 onward, McDiarmid won the Ottawa Open (now the National Capital Tennis Association City Championships) five times—1938, 1941, and 1946-48 (the tournament was suspended from 1942-1945).

By October 1939, he was ranked the province's number one men's player by the Ontario Tennis Association.⁷ Often described as tall, lithe, and rangy, by 1940 McDiarmid had blossomed into one of the country's top amateur players, winning numerous titles at the city, provincial, regional, and national levels.⁸ He topped Ontario's men's tennis rankings from the late 1930s to the late 1940s.⁹

In the 1930s, he initially played in Ottawa's Britannia area at the Britannia Heights Tennis Club, and the Britannia Boating Club (now the Britannia Yacht Club), where his siblings played. He then joined the Ottawa Tennis and Lawn Bowling Club, in Old Ottawa South, before switching permanently to the Rideau Lawn Tennis Club (now the Rideau Sports Centre), in Gloucester (now

Overbrook). He played tournaments and intra-club matches at many of Ottawa's clubs, including the Jewish Tel-Aviv Tennis Club near the Rideau club, where he also instructed.¹⁰ As well, he trained at the Ottawa Indoor Tennis Club in the offseason.¹¹

In August 1939, at the Rideau Lawn Tennis Club, McDiarmid won his second Eastern Ontario Championships. With his "hard hit and accurately placed drives," McDiarmid defeated Montrealer Lewis Duff 3-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-1, 7-5. He also won the men's doubles title paired with Ottawa's Eddie O'Hara.¹² After the semi-finals, the day before, *The Globe and Mail* ran this amusing headline: "Hay Fever Almost Costs Champion Game."¹³ The story reported that McDiarmid lost a set due to seasonal allergies that "brought on watery eyes ... and impeded his breathing." He rebounded and won 6-0, 5-7, 6-1. He was known by his family to suffer miserable seasonal allergies throughout his life.¹⁴

A year later, in early July 1940, McDiarmid took both the singles and doubles titles at the Quebec open men's singles championship, in Montreal. In the singles final, he played Phil Pearson of Montreal. "The steady-stroking McDiarmid coasted through three sets of sensation-lacking tennis to win the singles title 6-3, 6-4, 6-2."¹⁵ "Playing some of the best tennis of his career," McDiarmid and partner Lewis Duff won the men's doubles 6-1, 6-2, 3-6, 8-6.¹⁶



(Ottawa Citizen 30 October 1939)

Only a week after that, McDiarmid truly hit his stride at the 1940 Canadian National Championships (renamed the Canadian Open in 1968, today known as the Rogers Cup), in Quebec City. "Playing steady, heady tennis throughout," the 24-year-old from Ottawa defeated his oft faced opponent Lewis Duff in straight sets, 6-1, 7-5, 6-2. McDiarmid again teamed up with Duff in the men's doubles, losing in the final 11-9, 6-3, 6-3.¹⁷

In June 1941, the Canadian Lawn Tennis Association named McDiarmid the number one men's player in Canada for 1940. The association also announced its unanimous decision to suspend the Dominion (Canadian) championship tennis tournaments because of the Second World War.¹⁸ Given the suspension, McDiarmid held the men's singles title until 1946.

After winning the Canadian National Championships in 1940 (founded in 1881, the Canadian Open is the third oldest tennis championship after Wimbledon, 1877, and the U.S. Open, 1880), McDiarmid played his first U.S. National Championships (renamed the U.S. Open in 1968) tennis tournament at Forrest Hills, where he lost in the second round to New Yorker Charles Mattman 7-5, 6-4, 9-7.¹⁹



In September 1941, with the Second World War underway, McDiarmid played Britain's eight-time Grand Slam tennis champion Fred Perry at an exhibition match at the Rideau Lawn Tennis Club. Hundreds of fans attended the wartime Red Cross fundraiser where McDiarmid played two matches against the reigning World's Professional Champion. In the afternoon, McDiarmid took the first set 6-4, and Perry took the second 6-3. The early match, consisting of deep baseline play, was rated the best of the day. In the evening, Perry bested McDiarmid 6-3, 6-3. Taking the net more frequently, Perry "mixed drop shots and decisive drives" and dominated the match.²⁰

In 1938, the McDiarmid family had established the popular annual McDiarmid brothers' doubles tournament that rotated through Ottawa-area clubs. Don, Gordon, Malcolm, and Clifford competed each year before their parents, siblings, friends, and fans. Notably, despite winning the Canadian open, Don was on the losing brothers' pairing in 1940. A headline in the *Ottawa Citizen* in November 1942 declared, "Unique Family Tennis Play is cancelled for Duration," noting that Corporal McDiarmid had deployed to England with the Royal Canadian Air Force.²¹

Having enlisted in the spring of 1942, McDiarmid deployed overseas in November as part of the RCAF's clerical establishment. He quickly became a sports ambassador for Canada and the RCAF. In London, where he was initially stationed, he was welcomed as a guest player at the prestigious Queen's Club with full

membership privileges.²² After London, he had short postings to Prestwick, Scotland, and the Inner Hebrides on Scotland's west coast. In 1943, he was posted to Algiers in North Africa, and then to Cairo, Egypt, where he spent the balance of the war.

In Cairo, McDiarmid played tennis at the Wilcox Sports Club, winning several club titles.²³ He also played a state tennis tournament "in the burning heat," losing in the semi-finals to "ace" Egyptian player Andre Najar 3-6, 6-1, 6-4. McDiarmid made it a close match, but he faded in the extreme heat.²⁴ During his leave period after the war in 1945, McDiarmid visited Athens, Naples, Glasgow, and spent a week in Edinburgh, playing tennis at clubs in each of those cities.

In late September 1945, before returning to Canada, McDiarmid was invited to play at a Canadian military services tournament in Hilversum, a small city in the Netherlands, 24 kilometres southwest of Amsterdam (Canadian forces played a major role in liberating the Netherlands from Nazi occupation). Sergeant McDiarmid won his match in straight sets, 6-2, 6-1, 6-3, winning the singles trophy and helping the RCAF win the overall team trophy, beating the two army teams.²⁵ He recalled celebrations and a gala dinner marking the return of artworks to the Rijksmuseum, the country's national museum of arts and history.²⁶ (Truckloads of artworks were famously returned to the Rijksmuseum in October 1945.)

McDiarmid sailed back to Canada in October 1945 in the troopship Queen Elizabeth. Due to his confirmed sailing date, he had to turn down an invitation to play tennis at Wimbledon.²⁷ (As Canadian open champion in 1940, he qualified to play at Wimbledon, which was suspended from 1940-1945 due to the war - he regretted not playing there).²⁸ On the evening of 29 October, he and many other returning RCAF servicemen were greeted by their families and friends at Ottawa's Union Station.

In the spring of 1946, now released from the RCAF, McDiarmid resumed his amateur tennis career. In May, he joined the trials in Montreal for Canada's Davis Cup team, quickly establishing himself as "a man to beat."²⁹ After his strong performance, he was selected to play in the Davis Cup Americas Zone semi-finals against Mexico, in June.³⁰ The match was hosted in Montreal, but the Mexicans swept the Canadians. McDiarmid lost to Mexico's national singles champion, Armando Vega, in straight sets.³¹ He was the first Ottawa-born member of Canada's Davis Cup team.³²

In July, he defended his pre-war Canadian National Championships title and lost in the final to the "husky"³³ American Morey (P. Morley) Lewis³⁴ in four close-fought sets, 2-6, 8-6, 6-4, 6-4.³⁵ Hosted in Ottawa, it was a battle of two title holders as Lewis had won the Canadian open in 1939 (like McDiarmid, Lewis won his first title in straight sets). Both McDiarmid and Lewis were taken to four sets in the semi-finals, where the "slender Ottawa star" beat the "speedy" Montrealer



Henri Rochon. McDiarmid “boomed long drives down the sidelines catching Rochon “flat-footed time and time again.”³³

In September, McDiarmid returned to the U.S. National Championships at Forrest Hills and again lost in the second round. In October 1946, McDiarmid was selected along with Jean Marois of Quebec City to play in a goodwill tournament on behalf of Canada in Mexico City. Both players found the heat and altitude very challenging at the Pan-American International Tennis Tournament.³⁷ In singles play, McDiarmid lost to Peruvian Eduardo Bose 6-3, 6-2. He and Marois enjoyed the Mexican hospitality from the same group of players they had hosted during the Davis Cup in Montreal, including a traditional bullfight.³⁸

In July 1947, McDiarmid travelled to Victoria and Vancouver, B.C., to compete for another spot on the Davis Cup team. He was ousted in a playoff when Brendan Macken “whipped the usually steady McDiarmid 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.” (Macken went on to win the Canadian open in 1950.)

Ontario’s number one ranked player for the previous two years,³⁹ McDiarmid announced his retirement from high-level tennis competition on 15 June 1949,⁴⁰ though he planned to continue giving weekly tennis classes at the Rideau Lawn Tennis Club. In May 1951, he became the pro at the Rideau, offering group and individual instruction on Tuesday and Thursday evenings.⁴¹

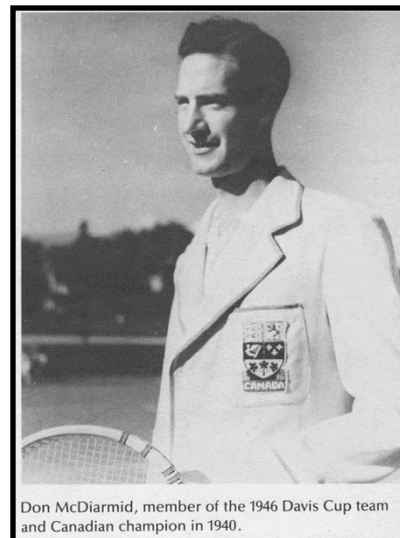
McDiarmid turned his attention to family and a career in Canada’s federal public service at the Department of Finance. In August 1948, he had married Connie (Constance G., née Morley); they had two children, Margo and Kim. Working with his father, McDiarmid built a house for his family on Ivanhoe Street in Britannia Heights. In 1955, he built a family cottage at Lac Johnston, near La Pêche (formerly Wakefield), Quebec. McDiarmid built a second family house in Stittsville in 1966, the same year his father passed away (his mother died in 1941).

When he and his first wife Connie separated in 1970, McDiarmid moved to Elgin Street in downtown Ottawa, before settling in Vanier near McArthur Avenue and the Rideau River in the mid-1970s.⁴² In 1978, McDiarmid settled in Old Ottawa South with his new partner, Janet Ann (née Buskard) Scanlon. They married in 1983. McDiarmid gained three Scanlon stepchildren: James David, Lucy, and Leslie.

McDiarmid remained active in tennis throughout his life as a player, coach, and mentor. In his day, he was a well-known tennis star in Canada, especially in his hometown. His accomplishments were routinely reported in national and local newspapers.⁴³ He even received mentions in foreign papers, like *The New York Times*.⁴⁴

He was recognized by the City of Ottawa (or its former municipalities) in several ways. In August 1940, he was awarded the Ottawa Civic Crest by Mayor Stanley Lewis.⁴⁵ Cameron Street, in the Britannia area, was renamed Don Street in McDiarmid’s honour.⁴⁶ McDiarmid was made an honorary life member at two of Ottawa’s top tennis clubs, the Rideau Lawn Tennis Club, and the Ottawa Tennis and Lawn Bowling Club.⁴⁷ Finally, in 1985 he was inducted into the Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame.⁴⁸

McDiarmid retired from the government in 1980. In 1981, he hosted former British tennis champion Fred Perry at the Ottawa Tennis and Lawn Bowling Club, where Perry held three one-hour clinics. The event helped mark the club’s 100th anniversary. McDiarmid died on 3 February 2002 with a tennis racket in hand while rallying indoors in Quebec with his second wife Janet McDiarmid, his partner of 25 years.



Don McDiarmid, member of the 1946 Davis Cup team and Canadian champion in 1940.



Don Street in Britannia was named after McDiarmid in honour of his open win. Photo: J.D. Scanlon.

1. Rank Donald McDiarmid No. 1 Tennis Player in Canada," *The Globe and Mail*, 2 June 1941, 18; retrieved from ProQuest. Tennis rankings for 1940 as announced by the Canada Lawn Tennis Association.
2. Kim McDiarmid, interviewed by author in December 2020, recalled that her grandfather was a contractor.
3. "Don' McDiarmid's Mother Passes On," *Ottawa Citizen*, 28 April 1941, 11; retrieved from ProQuest.
4. "David Scanlon, "OS resident in Sports Hall of Fame," *OSCAR Ottawa South Community Association Review*, June 1985,
5. "On the Courts," *Ottawa Citizen*, 7 October 1935, 12; retrieved from ProQuest.
6. National Capital Tennis Association City Championships; <https://ncta.ca/past-champions/>.
7. "McDiarmid Leads Ontario Tennis," *Ottawa Citizen*, 30 October 1939, 12; retrieved from ProQuest.
8. For his early career, see: "Don McDiarmid Goes To Toronto To Compete For Ontario Title," *Ottawa Citizen*, 8 June 1939, 11; retrieved from ProQuest.
9. "McDiarmid Ranked Tops in Ontario," *The Globe and Mail*, 20 April 1949, 18. "McDiarmid Heads Ontario Net List, *The Globe and Mail*, 16 April 1948, 20. "Tennis Association Rankings for 1947 Announced: Mrs. Vera Lewis And McDiarmid Tops," *Ottawa Citizen*, 22 October 1947. All retrieved from ProQuest.
10. Janet McDiarmid, second wife of Don McDiarmid, interviewed by the author in November-December 2020. The Tel-Aviv Tennis Club was near the Rideau tennis club where McDiarmid instructed. In the early years, Jews were not welcome at other clubs. See, Barry Padolsky, "Love-all: The short, wondrous life of Ottawa's Tel Aviv Tennis Club: OPINION," *The Globe and Mail*, 8 August 2020, 9. The Tel-Aviv club was an active member of the Ottawa District Lawn Tennis League, though it faced peri-

odic vandalism. See, "Vandalism At The Tel Aviv Club," *Ottawa Citizen*, 1 September 1955, 40.

11. Ibid, "Don McDiarmid Goes To Toronto."
12. "Don McDiarmid Defeats Duff In Five-Set Singles Final," *Ottawa Citizen*, 28 August 1939, 10; retrieved from ProQuest.
13. *The Globe and Mail*, 25 August 1939, 17; retrieved from ProQuest.
14. Recollection of the author and other family members.
15. "M'DIARMID WINS TITLE," *The Globe and Mail*, 18 July 1940, 14.
16. "Don McDiarmid Beats Pearson; Figures in Double Triumph," *Ottawa Citizen*, 8 July 1940, 10; retrieved from ProQuest.
17. "Ottawa Star Captures Final From Duff In Straight Sets," *Ottawa Citizen*, 15 July 1940, 10; retrieved from ProQuest.
18. Ibid, "Rank Donald McDiarmid No.1."
19. "OTTAWA NET PLAYER OUT IN 2ND ROUND," *The Globe and Mail*, 4 September 1940, 15.
20. "ENGLISH TENNIS STARS DRAWS LARGE CROWD, The Evening Citizen (Ottawa Citizen), 16 December 1941, 11; <https://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=2194&dat=19410916&id=ffguAAAAIBAJ&sjid=NtsFAAAIBAJ&pg=4219,2932590>.
21. *The Evening Citizen* (Ottawa Citizen) 7 November 1942, 15; <https://news.google.com/newspapers?id=CPwuAAAAIBAJ&pg=4010%2C1281878>.
22. "Relatives And Friends Pack Station to Greet Men Who Served in the RCAF," *Ottawa Citizen*, 30 October 1945, 7; retrieved from ProQuest.
23. "Ottawa Tennis Star Annexed Titles In Cairo, Holland," *Ottawa Citizen*, 30 October 1945, 11; retrieved from ProQuest.
24. "Ottawan Extends Egyptian Tennis Ace," *Ottawa Citizen*, 17 May 1945, 16; retrieved from ProQuest.
25. "Ottawan Wins Court Title In Tourney At Holland," *Ottawa Citizen*, 3 October 1945, 11.
26. Ibid, Janet McDiarmid, who remembers seeing the menu from the gala dinner.
27. Ibid, "Ottawa Tennis Star Annexed."
28. Ibid, Janet McDiarmid.
29. "Don McDiarmid Handy Winner," *The Globe and Mail*, 18 May 1946, 17.
30. 1946 America's Zone Davis Cup, Montreal; https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1946_Davis_Cup.
31. Mexican Netters Sweep Canadian Davis Round." *The Globe and Mail*, 17 June 1946, 18

32. Ibid, Ottawa Tennis History, 18.
33. "ONLY ONE TITLE TO CANADIANS," *The Globe and Mail*, 26 June 1939, 15; retrieved from ProQuest.
34. News reports typically refer to "Morey Lewis," but the official records for the Canadian open show "P. Morey Lewis." See, for example, Rogers Cup Past Champions; <https://www.rogerscup.com/about-rogers-cup/past-champions-draws/>.
35. "Four Net Titles For Mantel Shelf of Lewis Family," *The Globe and Mail*, 29 July 1946, 14; retrieved from Proquest.
36. "Lewis to Meet McDiarmid in Net Final," *The Globe and Mail*, 27 July 46, 15; retrieved from Proquest.
37. "McDiarmid Finds Mexico Very Warm," *Ottawa Citizen*, 16 October 1946, 15; retrieved from Proquest.)
38. "Bull Fights Kept McDiarmid Busy," *Ottawa Citizen*, 25 October 1946, 23; retrieved from ProQuest.
39. Ibid, "McDiarmid Ranked Tops"; "McDiarmid Heads Ontario" (see endnote 9).
40. "Capital City Tennis Star Retires," *Ottawa Citizen*, 16 June 1949, 28. See also, "McDIARMID RETIRES," *The Globe and Mail*, 17 June 1949, 24. Retrieved from ProQuest.
41. "McDiarmid Is Pro At Rideau Courts," *Ottawa Citizen*, 18 May 1951, 24; retrieved from ProQuest.
42. Ibid, Kim McDiarmid, who recalled details about where McDiarmid lived and when he built his houses and cottage.
43. The author found dozens of references to McDiarmid in the *Ottawa Citizen* and *The Globe and Mail*, and other newspapers across Canada, particularly the Maritimes, as well as mentions in Ottawa tennis club tennis histories.
44. See, for example, "M'Diarmid Takes Final," *The New York Times*, 14 July 1940, 8S; retrieved from Time-Machine, <https://timesmachine.nytimes.com/timesmachine/1940/07/14/92998823.html?pageNumber=68>.
45. "Dance to Honor Don McDiarmid," *The Ottawa Journal*, 16 July 1940, 15; retrieved from Newspapers.com.
46. Ibid, Janet McDiarmid, who recalled her husband taking her to Don Street in Britannia and telling her the street had been named after him. Tennis Centre West Ottawa History also records Don Street as named after McDiarmid, <https://tcwo.ca/about-us/club-history/>.
47. Ibid, Janet McDiarmid. Also recalled by author who was at OTLBC when McDiarmid was made a life member there.
48. Ottawa Sports Hall of Fame; <https://ottawasportshalloffame.ca/inductees/donald-stuart-mcdiarmid/>.

The Story behind the Naming of Vanier's Ethel Street

By Glenn Clark

In the spring of 1947, Eastview Town Council received a letter from the Post Office Department threatening to discontinue postal delivery. Why? Because Eastview and previously Gloucester Township allowed street names to be assigned in new subdivisions with no regard to the existence of the same names already in use in Ottawa. There were many duplicate street names, and this was causing mail delivery problems. As Eastview was becoming one of Ottawa's fastest growing suburbs at the time, the problem was getting worse.

This presented Eastview with an opportunity to better reflect its French character by assigning new street names honouring francophone residents and historic figures. The original landowners were almost entirely anglophones and when they subdivided their land, English street names were assigned, often honouring their own family members. This included families such as Clark, Snow, Bradley, Olmstead, McArthur, Cummings, Sparks and others. However, the suburbanization of Eastview created a francophone enclave, as families moved in from neighbouring Lower Town and rural areas such as Orléans and Cyrville to the east. By the 1940s, Eastview had become a Francophone majority town.

Notice was given in the *Ottawa Citizen* on September 24, 1947 (page 25) which listed the affected street names that would be changed. More than 70 streets were included. In addition to resolving duplications, it included several other streets, also mostly to be converted to French names.

The notice indicated that a county judge was assigned to accept or reject the individual name changes and a meeting was to take place at the Nicholas Street Carleton County courthouse on October 6, 1947 at 10:30 a.m. Such a massive change naturally created debate in Eastview and street by street petitions were signed, in favour, opposed or suggesting alternate names.

The Post Office was somewhat critical suggesting that changes went beyond what was necessary and were going to create unnecessary confusion, but the Town of Eastview was determined to proceed. In the end, 10 name changes were rejected often based on community petitions, some of which



opposed each other for the very same street. Amongst the list of retained names was Ethel Street. It had been slated to be changed to Evangeline Street. One duplicate street name remained, Maple Street, which was finally changed to Heritage Maple Way in 2017. One of the most controversial changes and relevant to this story with strong support on both sides was the change from Overton to Montfort Street. This change was approved. Montfort had major historical significance because the Montfort Fathers had founded Notre Dame de Lourdes Church in 1887, Eastview's first Roman Catholic church.

But who was Ethel? This turned out to be somewhat challenging to determine. The most obvious choice was Ethel Bradley as the Bradley family had owned significant property north of Montreal Road in Lot 5, Junction Gore where Ethel Street is located. William B. Bradley had acquired the whole lot in 1824 and Clements Bradley had taken it over in 1827. There had been many land transactions since then. But there was no obvious Ethel Bradley. No daughters or sisters by this name.

More information was found when examining Subdivision Plan 240 from 1906 which laid out Ethel Street as well as a few others including the neighbouring Overton Street. The subdivision was owned by Richard Austin Bradley who turned out to be Clements Bradley's son, and a well-known Ottawa barrister. The next clue came from the naming of Overton Street, which turned out to honour Richard's son, Overton William Bradley, a medical doctor practicing in Montreal who had received his training at Ann Arbor Medical College at the Uni-

versity of Michigan at the turn of the 20th century. His marriage on June 28, 1912 to Grace Winnifred Butterworth was covered in the Ottawa Citizen the same day and was described as *"The marriage was quietly celebrated at St. George's church at two o'clock, no invitations having been issued and only immediate relatives and friends being present."* Not exactly the celebration you would expect for a lawyer's son who was a medical doctor.

The marriage record revealed the reason and the next clue. 'Bachelor' had been written on the record but then lined out and replaced with 'widower'. There had been a previous marriage. Further searches finally revealed that first marriage, which took place in Belleville, Ontario on April 28, 1906. The location had made it more difficult to locate. The bride's name was Ethel Jane Robertson. This was the 'Ethel' for whom Ethel Street was named. Furthermore, the 16 1/10 acres that became subdivision Plan 240 was purchased by her under her maiden name from Robert Cummings on December 18, 1905.

Ethel and Overton Streets honoured their marriage. Except there was one further complication. The Ottawa Journal reported on August 8, 1906 the following headline *"Met Sudden Death at Dorval"*. *"Mrs. W.O. Bradley, daughter-in-law of Mr. R.A. Bradley, barrister, Central chambers (Elgin Street), was killed and her aunt, Mrs. George Stewart, of Belleville, was seriously injured in an accident at Dorval station on Saturday evening (August 4th). The two ladies were standing on the narrow platform between two tracks at Dorval. A*

train approached and they were either drawn in by suction or moved against it in some other way. Mrs. Bradley was instantly killed."

The 1906 subdivision plan was registered on August 17th and after Ethel's death, so the street names actually memorialized both their marriage and her death.

Doctor Overton William Bradley was a general practitioner for 35 years until his death on May 28, 1938 at Homoeopathic Hospital in Montreal after a short illness at age 62. The 'Overton' name was carried on by his son from his second wife, John Overton Bradley.

It was a whole lot easier to get older than it was to get wiser.

I wish the buck really did stop here, I sure could use a few of them.



To renew or become a new member, please complete this form and return it to the address below with your cheque. Memberships may also be purchased on our website.

Membership Form—Gloucester Historical Society/Société historique de Gloucester
(Membership year runs from April 1 to March 31.)

Please note that we added a new category of long term (10 year) membership and discontinuing life memberships. Current life members will continue to be honoured. Details are below.

Annual Membership/ - \$20.00 for one year..... 10 year Membership \$150.00

NAME: _____ Email Address: _____

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CITY: _____ PROV _____ POSTAL CODE _____

Donations are always welcome. We are a registered charitable organization and provide tax receipts.

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